

Wendover Free Church February 2021

FEBRUARY CHURCH MEETING

Dear brothers and sisters,

May grace and peace be with you all. I hope and pray this newsletter finds you well.

I would like to encourage you to participate in our church meetings. The church meeting is the heart of our life together. It is where we think and pray about issues together and where we make important decisions. Due to the COVID pandemic we have been unable to have in-person meetings, usually preceded by a shared meal and precious time to chat and share.

However, we have continued to meet using zoom, an internet based video conferencing platform where we can also phone into the meetings. It isn't quite the same as meeting in person, but we are still able to discuss issues together and pray about them and seek God's direction for our life together.

In February we will have another church meeting using zoom and I would like to encourage you to think about taking part if you are able. If you have any questions or concerns please do get in touch, we would love to help you get involved if at all possible.

May the blessings of God, Father, Son and Spirit, be with us all and enable us to share our lives with one another and the world around us. Amen.

Best wishes and warm greetings,

Remco



LETTER OF THANKS

I am writing to say thank you to you all for the women's gifts, children's gifts, food and blankets that you recently donated to the refuge. We are incredibly grateful to you, and these were given to the women and children here at the refuge and to some of our ex-residents and helped provide a better Christmas for them all.

Thank you again for thinking of us we really appreciate this.

Kind Regards, Lynda Barnett

Support Worker for Aylesbury Women's Aid

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

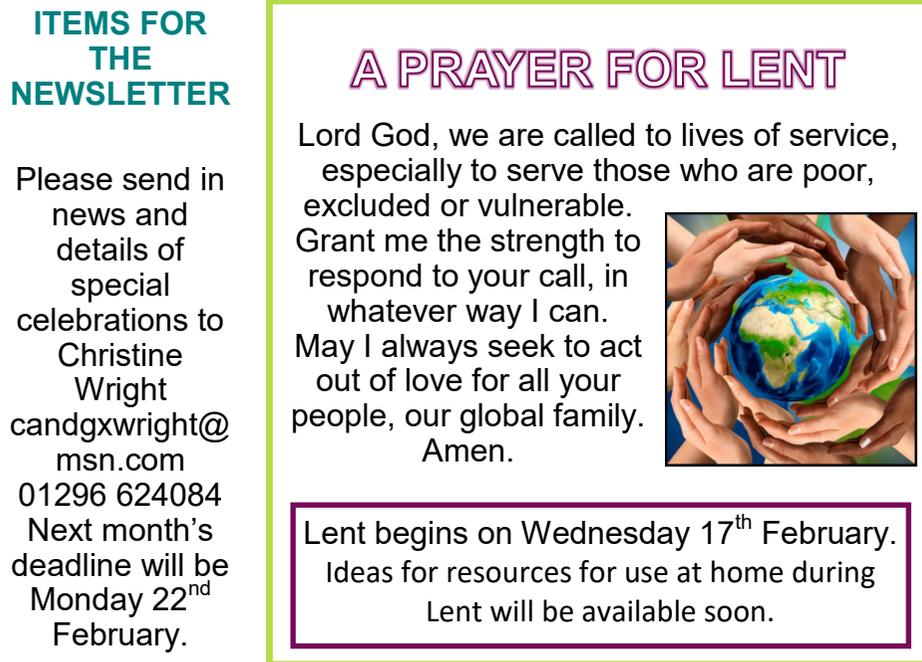
Please send in news and details of special celebrations to Christine Wright candgxwright@msn.com 01296 624084 Next month's deadline will be Monday 22nd February.

A PRAYER FOR LENT

Lord God, we are called to lives of service, especially to serve those who are poor, excluded or vulnerable. Grant me the strength to respond to your call, in whatever way I can. May I always seek to act out of love for all your people, our global family. Amen.



Lent begins on Wednesday 17th February. Ideas for resources for use at home during Lent will be available soon.



SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT

I would like to start by thanking you for your support for me and my development and growth. As a church you have enabled me, through time & financial support, to attend courses, conferences and quiet days, to get support and have accountability through meeting with other ministers. These are things that were put in place during my “probation period” and because I found them valuable and useful, I continued to do them when this period was over.

During the first half of last year, both our “parent” denominations, the URC and the Baptist Together network, initiated a scheme for continued development for their ministers. As a Baptist minister, accredited by the Baptist Union, I have enrolled into the Baptist initiative of **Continued Ministerial Development (CMD)**. Through this CMD I am committing myself to the five habits of: learning, attentiveness, accountability, connection, and review. Through some of the activities that were put in place during and after the probation period I was already engaged in some of these habits. However, I am very pleased and encouraged that this is now something that is



supported and recommended by our denominations.

I believe that it is important for any individual to continue to learn and develop and stay connected and be accountable. As a pastor it is partly my role to encourage and facilitate for you to do the same, and I feel that being engaged with it myself intentionally will enable me to support you in it too. I also believe that as I continue to learn and develop you will benefit from it, through the teachings and other bits and pieces I prepare I will be able to share some of the learning I have done. This way we can learn together also.

The church council discussed the initiative and decided to propose a budget for me to engage in the CMD. So at our last church meeting in November, when the budget for 2021 was agreed upon, this line for CMD was added. I am very grateful for your continued support and encouragement to me in this. And I hope to be able to share many of my learnings and habits with you through our life together over the years to come.

Remco

STANDING IN THE GAP

Our Mission Prayers in February are for **Emmanuel International**. Paul Jones, EI International Director writes:

‘In Ezekiel 22:30, the Lord is looking for someone to build up the wall, to stand in the gap. In this unprecedented world-wide situation, this is what our EI family around the world is doing, standing in the gap,

helping people address the pandemic. It has been immensely encouraging to see the creative ways missionaries and staff in each country, with their partner churches, are reaching out to support their communities. Each week, we gather together through Zoom to give updates and to pray together. Thank you for upholding our EI family in your prayers.’

In **Brazil**, Emmanuel International is helping partner churches provide food packages to poor people who cannot earn any money because of social isolation.

In **Haiti**, there is the appearance that the government is on top of the situation and that things are in place to protect people from COVID-19. However, in reality, if the spread should increase rapidly, Haiti’s medical system is very fragile and they don’t truly have the necessary equipment to handle very many cases. To date there have been 72 cases and 5 deaths.

In the **Philippines**, Our missionaries in Davao City are on very strict quarantine but have people who help them buy groceries. They were also able to help 16 families from a very poor community by repacking a

sack of rice and eggs and dropping off to a member of their small group for house to house distribution. No one who is not from their area is allowed to enter.

In **Malawi**, one outcome they are privileged to be part of is the total reliance on prayer. Everyone knows that, apart from God’s mercy limiting the scope of this virus here, Malawi cannot match its vehemence. While they practice preventive measures, there is a collective sense that only God can ultimately rescue Malawi from this threat. So, as a good Kenyan friend says, “We wash and pray.”

